

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 02086 120945Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W
-----122059Z 049201 /70

R 120915Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1938
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMCONSUL DOUALA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 2086

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: BBAK(INTERNATIONAL OIL AND DEVELOPMENT CO.), BENC, ENRG
CM
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION-INTERNATIONAL OIL AND DEVELOPMENT
CO(IODC)

1. ECONOFF HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY MR. JOSEPH MABUDU, A TOGOLESE WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE OFFICES IN LOME AND COTONOU, AND WHO CLAIMS TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE FOR INTERNATIONAL OIL AND DEVELOPMENT CO., 1337 JEROME AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10583, MR. DAVID NORKIN, PRESIDENT (NORKIN ADDRESS 34 TOMPKINS ROAD, SCARSDALE, N.Y. 10583), IODC TELEPHONE 212--992-6350. (NOTE: SAME ZIP GIVEN FOR BOTH ADDRESSES, THOUGH IN DIFFERENT CITIES). MABUDU HAS TWO PROBLEMS. FIRST. IODC SENT HIM A CHECK FOR 196 NAIRA WHICH DOES HIM NO GOOD IN CAMEROON AND HE NEEDS MONEY TO PAY HIS YAOUNDE BILLS (OVER 365,000 FCFA) BEFORE HIS TOGOLESE PASSPORT EXPIRES MAY 19 AND HE MUST LEAVE THE COUNTRY. HE WANTS IODC TO SEND HIM 50,000 DOLLARS, 10 PERCENT OF PRESENT COMMISSION DUE HIM, AND REQUESTS OUR ASSISTANCE IN CONTACTING NORKIN. SECOND, HE HAS BECOME CONCERNED ABOUT BONA FIDES OF IODC, AND
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REQUESTS WE ESTABLISH IF IT IS REPUTABLE COMPANY.

2. FOR LOME-MABUDU GIVES ADDRESS AS 5 RUE AMOUTCHOU, B.P. 1713, LOME. WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFO ON HIM.

3. FOR COTONOU-MABUDU'S CLAIM FOR MONEY FROM IODC ALLEGEDLY RESTS ON HIS WORK IN BENIN WHERE HE REPRESENTED IODC IN THEIR

EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A CONTRACT TO BUILD A REFINERY AT COTONOU OF 200,000 BARRELS PER DAY CAPACITY (10 MILLION TONS PER YEAR) AS A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN IODC(49 PER CENT) AND THE GOVT. OF BENIN (51 PER CENT), AND TO SELL THE PRODUCTS. THIS INFORMATION IS BASED ON A COPY OF A LETTER SENT TO IODC, 8 NOVEMBER 1976, AND SIGNED BY MR. BARTHELEMY OHOUENS, MINISTRE DE L'INDUSTRIE ET DE L'ARTINANAT (NO. 803/MIA/) WHICH MR. MABUDU HAS IN HIS POSSESSION. THIS LETTER STATES THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO AGREE TO IODC'S PROPOSAL FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO COST APPRO. 750 MILLION DOLLARS, WITHIN 48 HOURS AFTER CONCLUSION OF A LOAN AGREEMENT. MABUDU ALSO HAS IN HIS POSSESSION A SECOND LETTER SIGNED BY OHOUENS RESPONDING TO IODC REQUEST AND GIVING IODC AUTHORIZATION AND FRANCHISE TO DO THE REFINERY PROJECT AND HANDLE EXPORT MARKETING FOR 30 YEARS, STARTING 1 NOVEMBER 1976. NOW, ACCORDING TO MABUDU'S STORY, IODC OWES HIM 500,000 DOLLARS FOR HIS SERVICES AND 3,250,000 DOLLARS FOR QUOTE COMMISSION POUR LA INTERVENTION DES HAUTE PERSONALITIES END QUOTE. IN OTHER WORDS, FOR THE MINISTER AND HIS ASSOCIATES.

4. FOR LIBREVILLE-MABUDU ALSO HAS IN HIS POSSESSION A COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE GABONESE CONSULATE IN YAOUNDE INVITING IODC TO SEND A REP TO LIBREVILLE TO DISCUSS CONSTRUCTION OF A REFINERY IN GABON. ACCORDING TO MABUDU, MINISTER OF ECON AND PLAN JULIEN MEZU IN GABON IS A PERSONAL FRIEND AND CONTACT IN THE GOVT.

5. FOR LAGOS-IODC REPORTEDLY HAS AN OFFICE IN LAGOS, IODC(NIG), LTD., HEADED BY MR. MORTENSEN. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO ON THEIR ACTIVITIES THERE.

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6. MABUDU IS IN YAOUNDE TO TALK TO SONARA ABOUT THEIR REFINERY PROJECT. NORKIN IS DUE TO COME TO CAMEROON AT SOME TIME IN NEAR FUTURE. ECONOFF MENTIONED THAT THERE WERE OTHER US FIRMS INTERESTED IN THE PROJECT. MABUDU ASKED FOR NAMES OF REPUTABLE AMERICAN FIRMS WHO COULD BUILD REFINERIES, AND ECONOFF PROVIDED SOME HANDOUT MATERIAL LEFT BY FIRMS.

7. MABUDU CAME IN OFF THE STREET AND WE HAVE NO IDEA AS TO HIS BACKGROUND OR THE RELIABILITY OF THE INFORMATION HE PROVIDED. HE DID SHOW COPIES OF THE LETTERS, BUT WE HAVE NO IDEA AS TO THEIR LEGITIMACY. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION FROM ADDRESSEE POSTS AS TO IODC OR MABUD. HOWEVER, HIS NEED FOR MONEY TO GET BACK TO TOGO(OR A LEAST OUT OF CAMEROON) IS PROBABLY LEGITIMATE AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE USDOC CONTACTING IODC CONCERNING HIS PLIGHT. ECONOFF ASKED MABUDU TO RETURN MAY 17.
PRILLAMAN

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE ASSISTANCE, BUSINESS REPUTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: BBAK, BENC, ENRG, INTL OIL & DEVELOPMENT CO, (MABUDU, JOSEPH)
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